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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,401	09/23/2003	Gerald Altman	5957-72402	9364
7590		08/22/2007		
B. Noel Kivlin Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. P.O. Box 398 Austin, TX 78767-0398			EXAMINER LOVEL, KIMBERLY M	
			ART UNIT 2167	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/667,401	Applicant(s) ALTMAN, GERALD	
	Examiner Kimberly Lovel	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 are cancelled and claims 24-64 are rejected.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 29 May 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 24-30, 33-39, 41-45 and 48-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0111960 to Irons et al (hereafter Irons) in view of US Patent No 6,188,746 to Kocher (hereafter Kocher).**

Referring to claim 24, Irons discloses a method, comprising:

receiving a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time (see [0044] and [0069]); and

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents:

generating a unique time-based address [globally unique identifier] corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received (see [0047]); and

storing the electronic document in a time-addressable storage system at a corresponding storage location having an address corresponding to the unique time-based address for the electronic document (see [0049]).

Referring to claim 25, Irons discloses the method of claim 24, wherein said receiving includes receiving a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the unique time-based address of the first electronic document corresponds to the first date and the first time of day [date] (see [0048]).

Referring to claim 26, Irons discloses the method of claim 25, wherein the first point in time corresponds to a time when the first electronic document was created by imaging a physical document (see [0048] and [0049]).

Referring to claim 27, Irons discloses the method of claim 25, wherein the first time of day is specified by at least an hour, minutes, and seconds (see [0048] and

[0049] – it is inherent for a time of day to be specified by at least one of hour, minutes or seconds).

Referring to claim 28, Irons discloses the method of claim 24, wherein said receiving includes: receiving imaged electronic documents [scan]; and/or receiving computer generated electronic documents [email] (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 29, Irons discloses the method of claim 28, wherein the imaged electronic documents include electronic documents that were created by imaging physical documents [scanning] (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 30, Irons discloses the method of claim 28, wherein the computer generated electronic documents include electronic documents received from one or more of the following sources: word processing programs, graphics programs, e-mail [e-mail], facsimile transmissions (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 33, Irons discloses the method of claim 24, further comprising: accessing a first electronic document stored in the time-addressable storage system using a first unique time-based identifier [globally unique identifier], wherein the first unique time-based identifier corresponds to a first point in time when the first electronic document was received into the document management system (see [0041], lines 9-15).

Referring to claim 34, Irons discloses the method of claim 24, further comprising: accessing a range of stored electronic documents using a range of unique time-based identifiers corresponding to a first range of time (see [0041], lines 9-15 and [0069]).

Referring to claim 35, Irons discloses the method of claim 24, further comprising: generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes [metadata] for the corresponding electronic document (see [0048], lines 10-19).

Referring to claim 36, Irons discloses the method of claim 35, further comprising: for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, updating one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record (see [0049], lines 13-19).

Referring to claim 37, Irons discloses the method of claim 36, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes [metadata] (see [0089]).

Referring to claim 38, Irons discloses the method of claim 37, wherein the one or more tables include one or more of:

- a first table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more persons or organizations;

- a second table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of file numbers or physical locations of physical documents corresponding to various ones of the succession of electronic documents;

- a third table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to a junction of the first and second table entries;

- a fourth table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of events, tasks, or dates; or

a fifth table enabling viewing of one or more of the succession of electronic documents [table of records in the relational database] (see [0062], lines 9-12).

Referring to claim 39, Irons discloses a method of accessing records in a database, the method comprising:

receiving input corresponding to a range of time (see [0047]);

using the received input to generate a range of unique time-based addresses [globally unique identifier] (see [0044] and [0049]); and

using the range of unique time-based addresses to address a time-addressable storage system in a document management system to access the range of electronic documents (see [0041], lines 9-15 and [0069]).

Referring to claim 41, Irons discloses a document management system comprising:

an input unit configured to receive a succession of electronic documents, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time (see [0044] and [0069]);

a time-addressable storage subsystem configured to store the succession of electronic documents using corresponding unique time-based addresses [globally unique identifier] (see [0047]);

a computer system configured, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, to generate a unique time-based address corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received into the document

management system, and to use the unique time-based address to store the electronic document in the time-addressable storage subsystem (see [0049]).

Referring to claim 42, Irons discloses the system of claim 41, wherein the input unit is configured to receive a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the computer system is configured to generate a unique time-based address for the first electronic document that corresponds to the first date and the first time of day [date] (see [0048]).

Referring to claim 43, Irons discloses the system of claim 42, wherein the first time of day is specified by at least an hour, minutes, and seconds (see [0049] – it is inherent for a time of day to be specified by at least one of hour, minutes or seconds).

Referring to claim 44, Irons discloses the system of claim 42, wherein the first electronic document originated from a first physical document converted into the first electronic document [scanning] (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 45, Irons discloses the system of claim 42, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system [e-mail] (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 48, Irons discloses a document management system, comprising:

first means for receiving a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time (see [0044] and [0069]); and

second means for generating a unique time-based address [globally unique identifier] corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received (see [0047]); and

third means for storing the electronic document in a time-addressable storage system at a corresponding storage location having an address corresponding to the unique time-based address for the electronic document (see [0049]).

Referring to claim 49, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 48, wherein a unique time-based address for a given one of a succession of electronic documents corresponds to a date and a time of day within that date that the given electronic document was received into the document management system (see [0048]).

Referring to claim 50, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 48, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes one or more documents, each of which is converted for a corresponding first physical document [scanning] (see [0048] and [0049]).

Referring to claim 51, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 48, wherein wherein the succession of electronic documents include one or more documents, each of which corresponds to an electronic document provided as input to the document management system [e-mail] (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 52, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 48, further comprising: fourth means for generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of

attributes [metadata] for the corresponding electronic document (see [0048], lines 10-19).

Referring to claim 53, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 52, further comprising: fifth means for updating, for at least a subset of the received electronic documents, one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record (see [0049], lines 13-19).

Referring to claim 54, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 53, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes [metadata] (see [0089]).

Referring to claim 55, Irons discloses the document management system of claim 54, wherein the one or more tables include one or more of:

- a first table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more persons or organizations;

- a second table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of file numbers or physical locations of physical documents corresponding to various ones of the succession of electronic documents;

- a third table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to a junction of the first and second table entries;

- a fourth table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of events, tasks, or dates; or

- a fifth table enabling viewing of one or more of the succession of electronic documents [table of records] (see [0062], lines 9-12).

Referring to claim 56, Irons discloses a computer readable memory medium storing program instructions that are computer executable, for each of a succession of electronic documents received into a document management systems at a corresponding point in time, to:

generate a unique time-based address [globally unique identifier] corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received (see [0047]); and

store the electronic document in a time-addressable storage system [relational database] at a corresponding storage location having an address corresponding to the unique time-based address for the electronic document (see [0049]).

Referring to claim 57, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 56, wherein a unique time-based address for a first electronic document corresponds to a first-date and a first time of day at which the first electronic document was received into the document management system (see [0048]).

Referring to claim 58, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document corresponds to a first physical document converted into the first electronic document (see [0048] and [0049]).

Referring to claim 59, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system (see [0044]).

Referring to claim 60, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first time of day is specified by at least an hour, minutes, and

seconds (see [0048] and [0049] – it is inherent for a time of day to be specified by at least one of hour, minutes or seconds).

Referring to claim 61, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the program instructions are further executable to: generate a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes [metadata] for the corresponding electronic document (see [0048], lines 10-19).

Referring to claim 62, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 61, wherein the program instructions are further executable to: for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, updating one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record (see [0049], lines 13-19).

Referring to claim 63, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 62, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes [metadata] (see [0089]).

Referring to claim 64, Irons discloses the computer readable memory medium of claim 63, wherein the one or more tables include one or more of:

a first table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more persons or organizations;

a second table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of file numbers or physical locations of physical documents corresponding to various ones of the succession of electronic documents;

a third table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to a junction of the first and second table entries;

a fourth table containing records searchable by attributes pertaining to one or more of events, tasks, or dates; or

a fifth table [table of records] enabling viewing of one or more of the succession of electronic documents (see [0062], lines 9-12).

4. Claims 31, 32, 40, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,813,009 to Johnson et al as applied to claims 24, 39 and 42 above respectively, and further in view of US PGPub 20020023067 to Garland et al.

Referring to claim 31, Irons discloses an electronic system storing a plurality of records. However, Irons fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the time-addressable storage system includes redundant storage. Garland discloses storing a plurality of patient records in a database (see [0035]-[0039]), including the further limitation wherein the records are stored using a redundant storage [RAID] (see [0037]) in order to improve the reliability, data availability and performance of the system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the RAID system disclosed by Garland to store the records of Irons. One would have been motivated to do so in order to improve the reliability, data

availability and performance of the system by using an array of small, inexpensive disks replace a large expensive storage system.

Referring to claim 32, the combination of Irons and Garland (hereafter Irons/Garland) discloses the method of claim 31, wherein the redundant storage includes a RAID system [RAID] (see [0037]).

Referring to claim 40, Irons discloses an electronic system storing a plurality of records. However, Irons fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the time-addressable storage system includes a RAID system. Garland discloses storing a plurality of patient records in a database (see [0035]-[0039]), including the further limitation wherein the records are stored using a RAID system [RAID] (see [0037]) in order to improve the reliability, data availability and performance of the system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the RAID system disclosed by Garland to store the records of Irons. One would have been motivated to do so in order to improve the reliability, data availability and performance of the system by using an array of small, inexpensive disks replace a large expensive storage system.

Referring to claim 46, Irons discloses an electronic system storing a plurality of records. However, Irons fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the time-addressable storage system includes redundant storage. Garland discloses storing a plurality of patient records in a database (see [0035]-[0039]), including the further limitation wherein the records are stored using a redundant storage [RAID] (see

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[0037]) in order to improve the reliability, data availability and performance of the system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the RAID system disclosed by Garland to store the records of Irons. One would have been motivated to do so in order to improve the reliability, data availability and performance of the system by using an array of small, inexpensive disks replace a large expensive storage system.

Referring to claim 47, Irons/Garland discloses the system of claim 46, wherein the redundant storage includes a RAID system [RAID] (see [0037]).

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Lovel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2750. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kimberly Lovel
Examiner
Art Unit 2167

13 August 2007
kml


JOHN COTTINGHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100